# The Language of Photography

documentary style digital photography program for children

We are an international program that brings children of different cultures together through the common language of photographic images. Children explore their lives through this art form, discovering the richness of their surroundings while simultaneously creating art and building self worth.

- We will provide classes in documentary style photography to support the children in the telling of their individual stories. (including digital cameras)
- We will provide cultural exchange through online communication with Rooftop Alternative School in San Francisco, California.
- We will provide access to the internet for online journaling to open up thought provoking dialogue through photos and encourage use of technology.
- We will curate photographs to be exhibited and sold. All proceeds from the individual sale will go to the photographer.

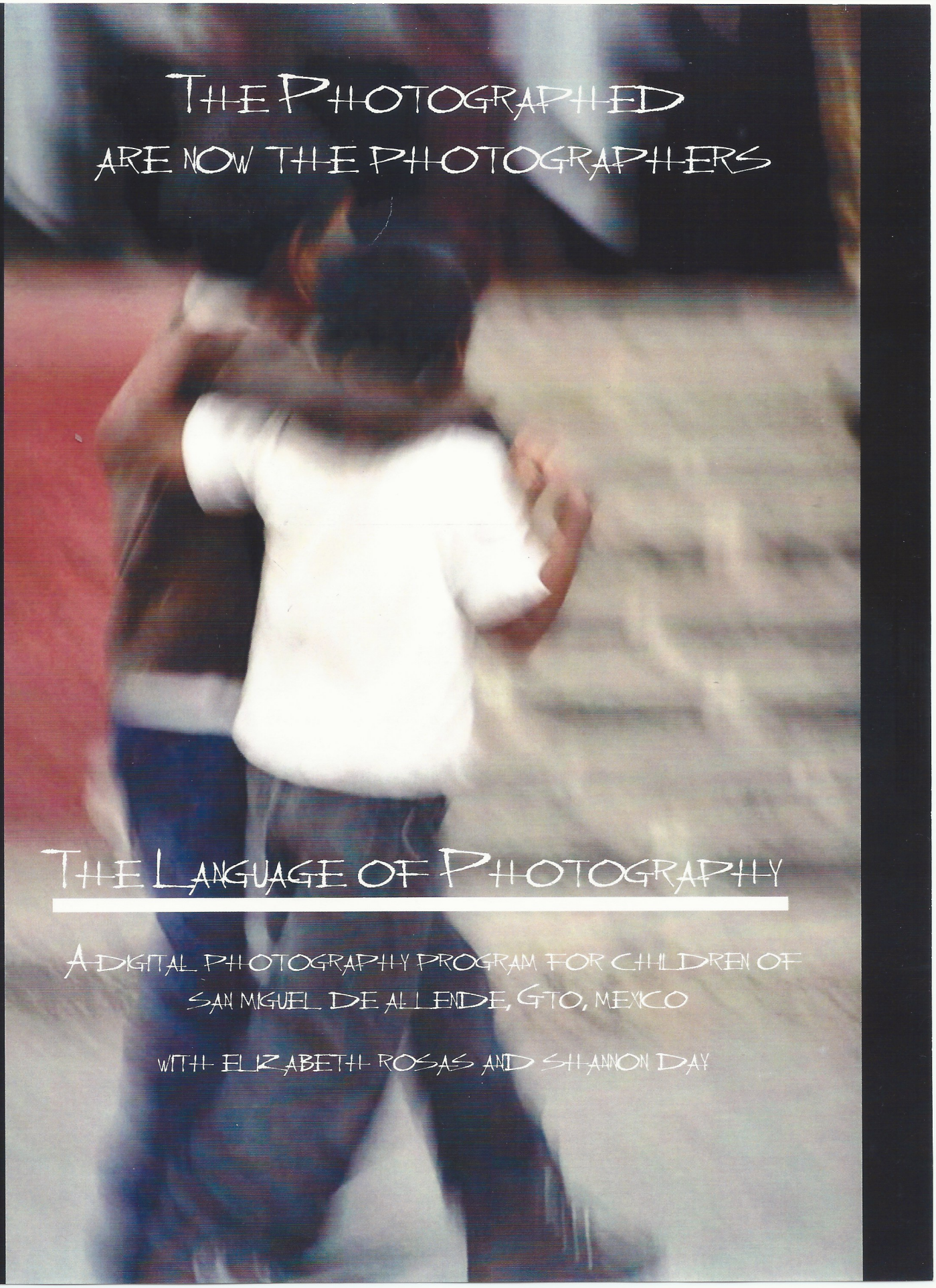
## Objectives

- Positive self discovery
- Resourcefulness (creating and selling art)
- Confidence
- Cultural exchange
- Appreciation of differences
- Creative self expression
- Discovery of an art form
- Share individual lives with the world

## The Directors

Elizabeth Rosas discovered her unique gift for working with children 4 years ago. It was then that she started as an artist in residence at Rooftop Alternative School in San Francisco. While there, she developed curriculum for and taught a school-wide digital photography program to 580 children from 5-13 years of age. During the pilot year of her program she discovered that children see the world through the lens of a camera significantly different than adults; they rely on instinct to make a great photo instead of worrying about skills, therefore leaving inhibitions behind. This allows them to make something beautiful and see the results instantly—which strengthens their belief in themselves.

Shannon Day has worked with children for the past 10 years and has been an artist-in-residence at Rooftop Alternative School. She has also taught at the American Conservatory Theatre, San Francisco Arts Education Project, University of South Florida and California College of Arts and Crafts.



# THE PHOTOGRAPHED ARE NOW THE PHOTOGRAPHERS

# THE LANGUAGE OF PHOTOGRAPHY

A DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN OF SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE, GTO, MEXICO

WITH ELIZABETH ROSAS AND SHANNON DAY

# New program for kids at the library

A new and exciting program has started at the Biblioteca Pública: a documentary-style digital photography program for the children of San Miguel de Allende.

Children between the ages of 9 and 13 will study the art of photography while documenting their individual life stories. They will explore their lives through this art form, discovering the richness of their surroundings while creating art and building self-worth.

Simultaneously, they will be sharing their work with children of a similar age at Rooftop Alternative School in San Francisco, California, via the internet and participating in online journaling to open up thought-provoking dialogue between the two countries.

The end of the initial session will culminate in an exhibition of the students' work. Photographs will be for sale, and all proceeds will go to the individual photographer.

Rooftop Alternative School's art program has donated five digital cameras for use in these classes and will be facilitating parallel assignments to share, via the internet, with our students here in San Miguel. The director of the program, Elizabeth Rosas, discovered her unique gift for working with children four years ago when she started as an artist-in-residence at Rooftop Alternative School. While there, she developed a curriculum for, and taught, a schoolwide digital photography program to 580 children from 5 to 13 years of age. During the pilot year of her program, she discovered that children see the world through the lens of a camera

significantly differently from adults. They rely on instinct to make a great photo instead of worrying about temporary lack of skills, therefore leaving inhibitions behind. This allows them to create beauty and see the results instantly—which strengthens their belief in themselves.

Assistant director Shannon Day has worked with children for the past 10 years and has been an artist-in-residence at Rooftop Alternative School. She has also taught at the American Conservatory Theatre, San Francisco Arts Education Project, University of South Florida and California College of Arts and Crafts.

The program needs the support of the community. Your 100-peso donation will pay for printing; 200 pesos will pay for matting and framing. We welcome donations of digital cameras and hosting of exhibits, or you can sponsor a photographer. For more information email Elizabeth Rosas at [redacted]

# Day's concerts offer diverse stylings

Shannon Day performs two upcoming concerts in a 19th-century salon-style soirée, accompanied by Elena Shoemaker. The first concert is devoted to musical theater greats ranging from Bernstein, Sondheim, Porter and Gershwin to new Broadway composers Andrew Lippa, and Michael John La Chiusa.

In the second concert, Shannon sings songs of love, passion and romance: boleros, jazz and cabaret to celebrate St. Valentine's Day.

A portion of the proceeds from these concerts will benefit Double Exposure, a program that connects children from diverse cultures, specifically from San Francisco, California and San Miguel de Allende, through the universal language of photography. For more ways to help, email Elizabeth Rosas at Libbyrosas@gmail.com.

Seating is limited. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Teatro Santa Ana.

**Concerts**

**Shannon Day**

Fri, Feb 2 & 9, 7:30pm

Sala Quetzal, Biblioteca Pública

Reloj 50A

100 pesos

# Shannon Day gives encore performance

Shannon Day's last two concerts sold out, so by popular demand she returns for one more show, titled "I Like It This Way." The performance features some of Shannon's favorite musical numbers, including several works by composer Stephen Sondheim along with songs made famous by Judy Garland, Liza Minnelli, Barbra Streisand and Carmen Miranda.

Day is uniquely gifted at crossing styles and genres of music. She sang and recorded professionally with the San Francisco and Atlanta Symphony choruses and has also performed with various jazz bands in Florida and California. Her first professional theatrical role just happened to be her dream role: Eva Peron in *Evita*. She has performed in Brazil, Mexico, Europe, the US and Canada. Most recently she performed at New York City's Birdland and The Duplex.

A portion of the proceeds will benefit The Language of Photography, a free digital photography program for the children of San Miguel de Allende. This program promotes positive cultural exchange, appreciation of differences and encourages self-worth via cross-cultural dialogue and creative exploration. For more ways to help, contact Elizabeth Rosas at Libbyrosas@gmail.com.

Tickets for the concert can be purchased at the Biblioteca Pública.

**Concert**
**Shannon Day**
Fri, Mar 2, 7:30pm
Sala Quetzal, Biblioteca Pública
Insurgentes 25
100 pesos

[redacted]

# Singer Shannon Day returns to San Miguel

**Concerts**
**Shannon Day**
Friday, February 2 & 9, 7:30pm
Sala Quetzal,
Biblioteca Pública, Reloj 50A
100 pesos

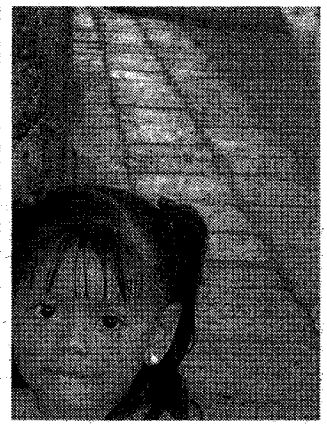
Live from the Sala Quetzal, Shannon Day performs two concerts in a 19th-century-salon–style soirée, accompanied by Elena Shoemaker. The first concert is devoted to musical theater greats ranging from Bernstein, Sondheim, Porter and Gershwin to new Broadway composers Andrew Lippa, and Michael John La Chiusa. In the second concert, Shannon sings songs of love, passion and romance: boleros, jazz and cabaret to celebrate St. Valentine's Day.

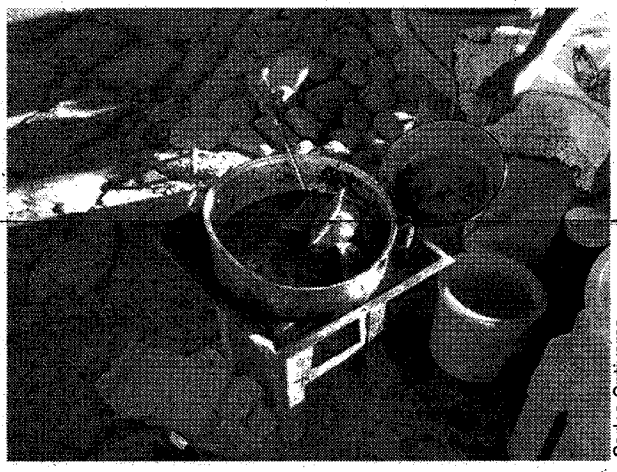
Day is uniquely gifted at crossing styles and genres of music. She sang and recorded professionally with the San Francisco and Atlanta Symphony choruses and has also gigged with various jazz bands in both Florida and California. Her first professional theatrical role just happened to be her dream role, that of Eva Peron in *Evita*. She has performed in Brazil, Mexico, Europe, the United States and Canada. Most recently, she performed at New York City's Birdland and The Duplex.

Day performs her one-woman show and various concerts six months out of the year in New York, San Francisco, Chicago and Florida. During the other six months, she shares her talents and passion for the arts with her students. Last fall, she taught music, musical theater and private voice to over 600 students ranging in age from 5 to 19 years. Her most recent charitable concert, "Signora …Your Son Is Here," raised US$10,000. Shannon last performed in San Miguel in a benefit concert at the Bellas Artes and as a guest performer at the Ángela Peralta Theater.

A portion of the proceeds from these concerts will benefit Double Exposure, a program that connects children from diverse cultures, specifically from San Francisco, California and San Miguel de Allende, through the universal language of photography. The program offers marginalized children the opportunity to discover themselves through the art of photography and gives them the opportunity to exhibit and sell their work. The program's goal is to promote positive cultural exchange and appreciation of differences and to encourage self-worth via cross-cultural dialogue and creative exploration. For more ways to help, email [redacted]

Seating is limited. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Teatro Santa Ana.





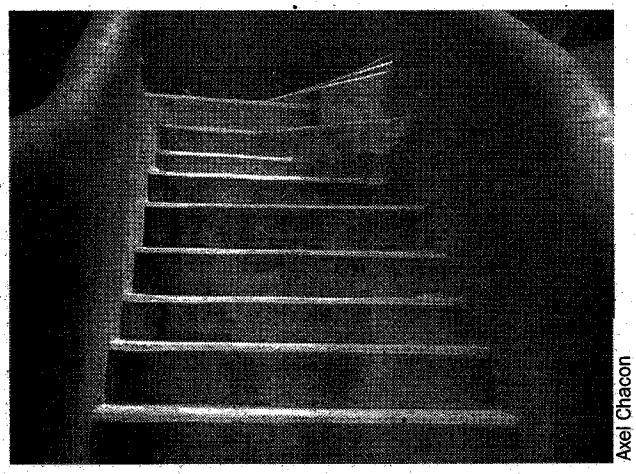
Carlos Ontiveros

# San Miguel through the eyes of kids

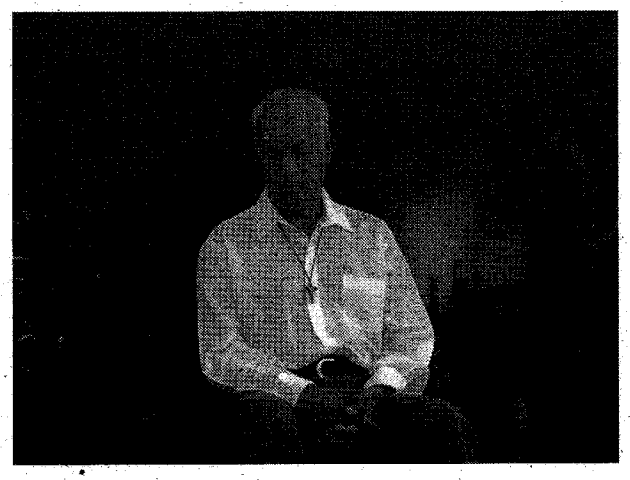
San Miguel through the eyes of the tourist and the professional photographer is more than well documented; but how is it seen by it's own children? Tonight you can see San Miguel through the lens of 12 talented young photography students. After meeting twice a week, learning about photographic composition and developing their skills under the guidance and encouragement of photographer Elizabeth Rosas, the work of the kids will be on public display.

**Photography exhibit & sale**
Fri, Mar 30, 5pm
Patio
Biblioteca Pública
Insurgentes 25

This exhibit is their first and will hardly be the last as local residents Carlos and Linda Soberman will continue the digital photography workshop when Elizabeth Rosas returns to the US.



Axel Chacon



# *The Language of Photography*

with founder/director Elizabeth Rosas
and co-director Shannon Day

## After 5 weeks and 11 classes we know these things about the kids:

While out shooting Carlos, our resident personality, walks right up to people with a big smile on his face as he clicks away. When Nallely wants to take a photo of someone she walks right up and tells the person that she is in a photography class then asks for permission. When Francisco and Citlali shoot photos they usually hang back from the group and try to discover subjects that the rest haven't seen. Fernanda, Fatima and Eva are the masters of "angles"--they are always experimenting. Abril and Axel took cameras home to document their families, with creative results. Jessica likes to take photos of pigeons, but she complains that they fly away and she ends up with a photo of the cement. Alejandra wrote that she wants to be a professional photographer one day. And while some of the kids gravitate towards the same type of subjects when they go out shooting; Guillermo, takes photos of everything.
They are a unique bunch!

Twelve students met twice a week, learned about photographic composition and developed their skills. They roamed the streets of San Miguel with cameras in hand; the students captured festivals, ceremonies and daily life. They also photographed the surreal work of Lisa Simms at her paper mache/art studio, and took a photographic art collage class with local artist Linda Soberman, and attended and discussed the documentary-style photo exhibit by Italian artist Danilo de Marco at the Bellas Artes.

## How It All Began...

Elizabeth was moved by the Oscar-winning documentary 'Born into Brothels', a film about a photographer who helped children in the red light district of Calcutta to see their world through the lens of a camera. She had already developed a photography program at the Rooftop Alternative School in San Francisco, California. The work the children created (which is now award winning) inspired her to bring a program to the children of Mexico. The idea was expanded to include sharing pictures and emails with the kids from San Francisco, giving glimpses into each others lives and to promoting understanding between the two cultures.

## By Purchasing A Photo You Are...

By purchasing a photo, you are changing the way that these kids see themselves. You are sponsoring the development of these kids, investing in them and you will get some great art at the same time!)

## What's next For 'Language of Photography'?

Elizabeth and Shannon have plans to take the program to Bali. We plant a seed, nurture it, encourage others to care for it, connect it to other places in the world and start all over again.

**The Biblioteca Publica with Linda and Carlos Soberman have committed to continuing and expanding the *Language of Photography* program here in San Miguel de Allende.

# Shannon Day farewell concert at the Teatro Santa Ana

Friday, March 16, 2007, Atención

Singer/Entertainer Shannon Day performs excerpts from her "One Woman Show" at the Teatro Santa Ana with pianist Elena Shoemaker. After three sold out performances in the Sala Quetzal, Shannon would like to give San Miguel a sampling of her cabaret show that will be opening in the famous "Plush Room" in San Francisco this summer. She weaves the story of her life from a tomboy childhood to the insanity of Broadway auditions in New York City. She also flashes back to the time she went AWOL from Opera School in Italy, and the days of singing in wedding bands and church choirs. All of these experiences are told with funny characterizations and fabulous music. Amazingly, much of Shannon's life can be told through the musical theater genre; music by such great composers as Stephen Sondheim, Ira and George Gershwin, Cole Porter and Cy Coleman.

A passionate and devoted teacher, Shannon is an artist in residence at Rooftop Alternative School in San Francisco, California where she also maintains a private voice studio.

A portion of the proceeds from all concerts benefit "The Language of Photography."

This is a show you won't want to miss, so get your tickets early. Tickets are available at the Biblioteca.

**Concert/Cabaret**

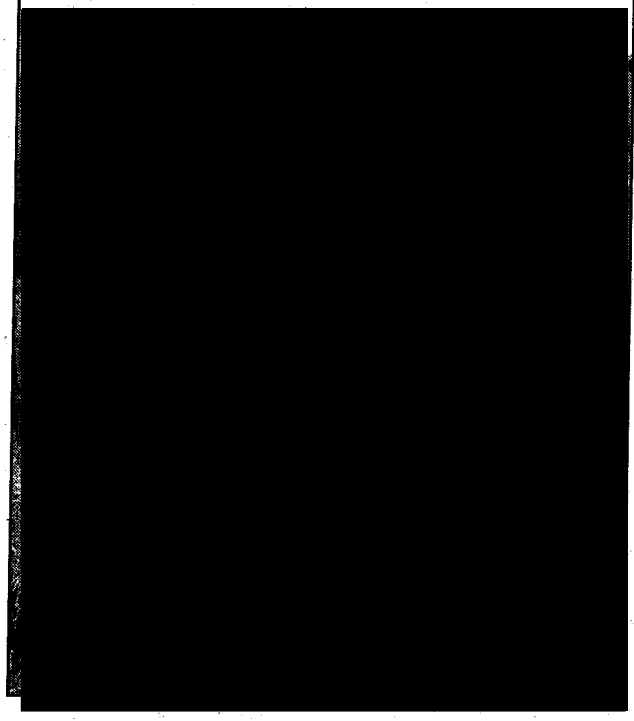
**Shannon Day**

Sat, Mar 24, 7:30pm

Teatro Santa Ana, Biblioteca Pública

Reloj 50A

150 pesos



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Seating is limited. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Teatro Santa Ana.

**Concerts**

**Shannon Day**

Fri, Feb 2 & 9, 7:30pm

Sala Quetzal, Biblioteca Pública

Reloj 50A

100 pesos

[redacted]

Friday, February 2, 2007, Atención

# From photographed to photographers

The digital photography program at the Biblioteca has, thus far, been an undeniable success. Twelve students have been meeting twice a week, learning about photographic composition and developing their skills. Roaming the streets of San Miguel, cameras in hand, the students have captured festivals, ceremonies and daily life. They also photographed the surreal work of Lisa Simms at her paper mache/art studio, as well as viewing the documentary-style photo exhibit by Italian artist Danilo de Marco.

Each student has shown a notable aptitude in this art form that is truly breathtaking, and individual styles are starting to show through in all their photos. During the next two weeks they will continue to explore San Miguel with a new vision of their home territory.

Program coordinator Elizabeth Rosas spoke with *Atención* about this unique program.

***Atención San Miguel*:** How did this program come about?

**Elizabeth Rosas:** I was moved by the Oscar-winning documentary *Born into Brothels*, a film about a photographer who helped children in the red light district of Calcutta see their world through the lens of a camera. I had already developed a photography program at the Rooftop Alternative School in San Francisco, California and the work children created (work which has won awards) inspired me to bring a similar program to the children of Mexico. The idea was expanded to include sharing pictures and emails with a group of kids from that school, giving glimpses into each others lives and to promote understanding between the two different cultures. It is a program that combines art and technology.

## A word from the students

**Nallely:** I am dedicated and focused and I love to capture [through photography] everything!

**Citlali:** Through my photographs people can know me and know the way that I think.

**Eva:** Photography is interesting and professional and I like to share my photographs with my friends and my teachers.

**Fernanda:** My photographs please others because my composition is good.

**Carlos:** For me, the exhibition is important so that others can see what I have learned.

**ASM:** What is the focus of the program? (no pun intended)

**ER:** The focus is two-fold. Firstly, for the students to study the art of photography while documenting their individual life stories. They explore their lives through the art form, discovering the richness of their surroundings while simultaneously creating art and building self esteem. Secondly, is cross-cultural communication.

**ASM:** How do kids approach photography? Is their perspective different to adults?

**ER:** Children see the world through the lens of a camera significantly differently from adults. They rely on instinct to make a great photograph instead of worrying about temporary lack of skills, therefore leaving

**Photography exhibit & sale**
Fri, Mar 30, 5pm
Patio Biblioteca Pública
Insurgentes 25

inhibitions behind. This allows them to create beauty and see the results instantly, which strengthens their belief in themselves. Each student has an element of the art form that comes very naturally, some are great taking photos of people, others are naturals at finding subjects that aren't traditionally beautiful.

**ASM:** What is the impact on the kids, and what impact does it have on the adults who view their work?

**ER:** I have seen students discover bits of who they are through all types of art. This particular form gives instant gratification. The student sees their mistakes right away and can correct them, making their photographs better. The first time the kids saw their work in a critique, they were nervous and speechless. By the end of the program, they were able and willing to critique each other based on the techniques they had learned.

As for adults, they are always surprised at the quality that young artists produce, and often comment that the students take far better photographs than they do.

A portion from the Shannon Day performance Saturday, March 24, at 7:30pm will be donated to this program. If you would like to help, contact [redacted]

by Abril Estefania Cervantes Vasquez

by Abril Estefania Cervantes Vasquez

by Abril Estefania Cervantes Vasquez

by Abril Estefania Cervantes Vasquez

by Alejandra Elizabeth Torres Rodriguez

by Alejandra Elizabeth Torres Rodriguez

by Alejandra Elizabeth Torres Rodriguez

by Axel Chacon Arcega

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TOMMY HILF
CLASSICS
by Axel Chacon Arcega

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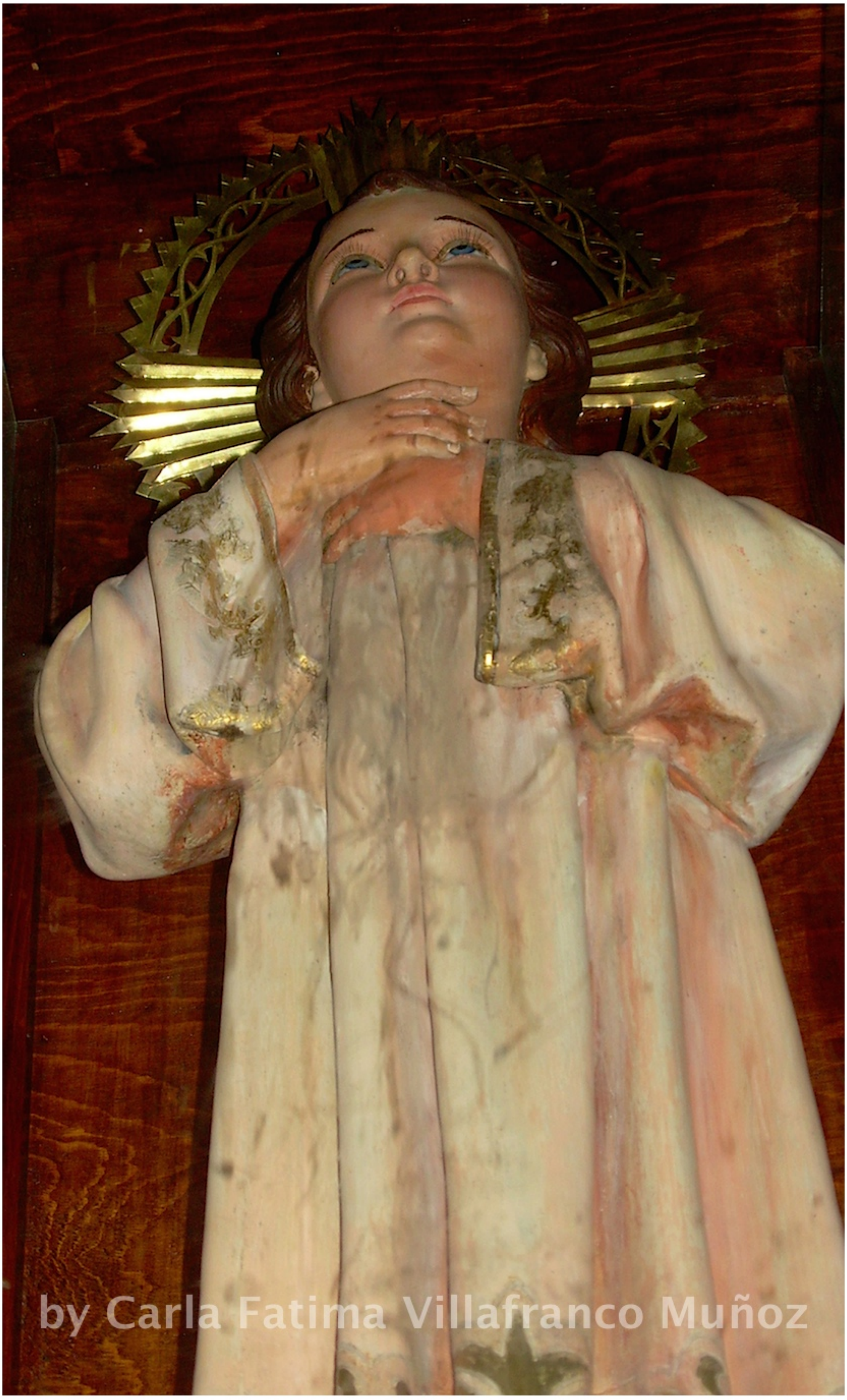
by Carla Fatima Villafranco Muñoz

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by Citlali Flores Ramirez

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by Citlali Flores Ramirez

by Eva Lucero Barcenas Hernandez

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by Eva Lucero Barcenas Hernandez

by Eva Lucero Barcena

by Fernanda Liliana Alvares

by Fernanda Liliana Alvares

Copias de
Carniceri
Pollería
Birrieria

by Fernanda Liliana Alvares

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by Guillermo Martinez Gonzalez

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by Jessica Guadalupe Lugo Piña

by Jessica Guadalupe Lugo Piña

by Jessica Guadalupe Lucio Pina

by Jessica Guadalupe Lugo Piña

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by Jessica Guadalupe Lugo Piña

Mickey
Dora
by Jose Francisco Morin Guarneros

by Jose Francisco Morin Guarneros

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Tavera
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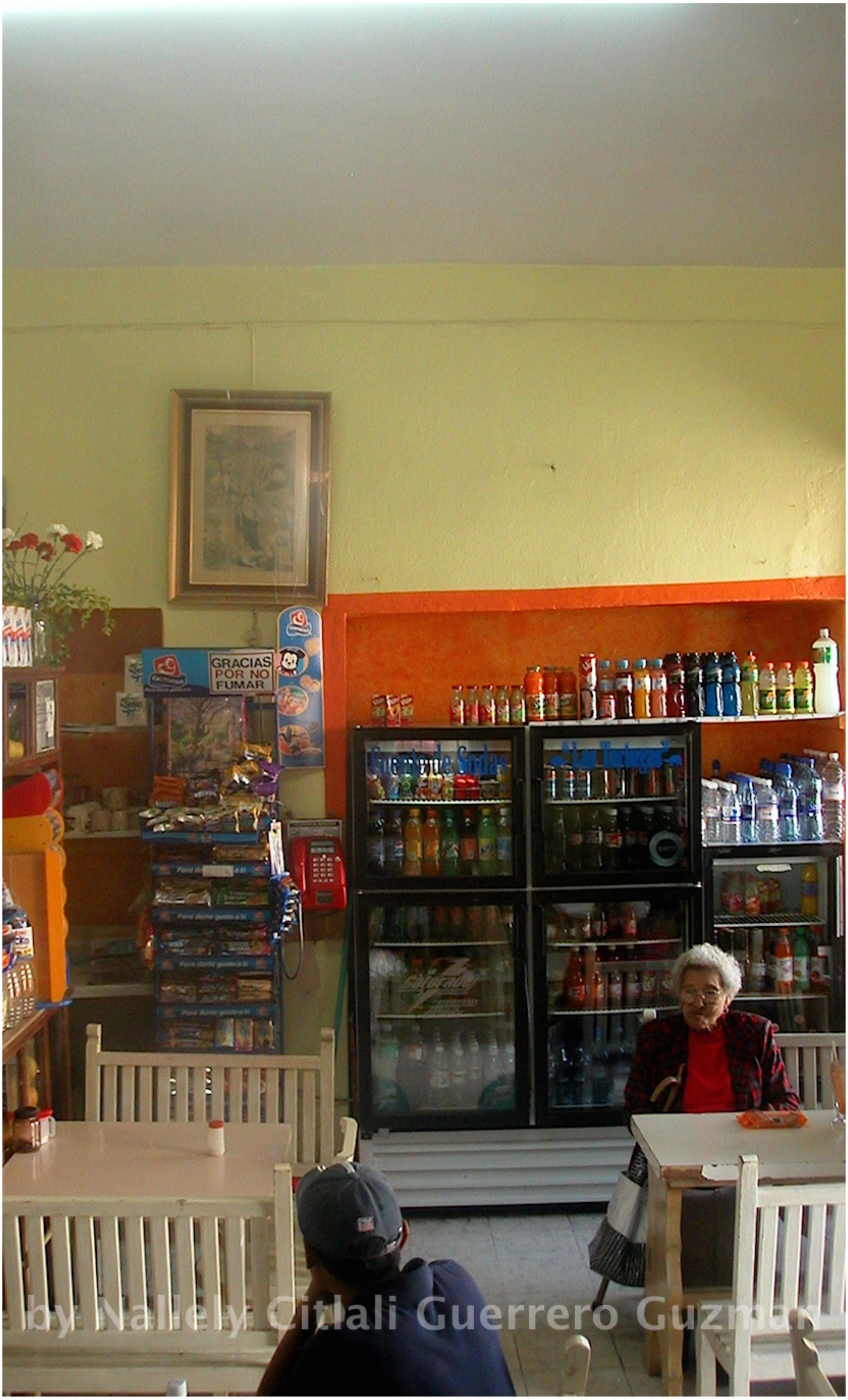

by Nallely Citlali Guerrero Guzman

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MILK CANDY WAFERS
CAJETA
by Nallely Citlali Guerrero Guzman